

## CLAIMS

1           1.     A method in a computer system for tracking orders for multiple  
2 units of items, each order having one or more items, each item having an associated  
3 quantity of units of that item, the method comprising:

4                 providing an order database with a plurality of orders that have been  
5 booked, the order database being updated to reflect current orders;

6                 updating a unit order database to include a record for each unit of each  
7 item of each order of the order database; and

8                 when status of a unit of an item of an order changes, setting a status in a  
9 record of the unit order database for a unit of the item of the order to reflect the  
10 changed status

11                so that the status of each unit of each item of an order can be tracked  
12 separately.

1           2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the updating of the unit order  
2 database includes adding a record for each unit of each item for each new order of the  
3 order database.

1           3.     The method of claim 2 including identifying that an order in the  
2 order database is new when the unit order database contains no records corresponding  
3 to that order.

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1                   4.     The method of claim 1 wherein the updating of the unit order  
2 database includes when the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has  
3 changed,

4                             adding a record for increased unit of the item; and

5                             setting a record to canceled for each decreased unit of the item.

1                   5.     The method of claim 4 including identifying that the quantity of  
2 units of an item of an existing order has changed by comparing the quantity of units of  
3 the item indicated in the order database to a quantity of units of the item indicated by  
4 the records of that order in the unit order database.

1                   6.     The method of claim 1 wherein the updating of the unit order  
2 database includes adding a record for each unit of each item of each uncanceled order  
3 of the order database.

1                   7.     The method of claim 1 wherein the updating of the unit order  
2 database occurs on a periodic basis.

1                   8.     The method of claim 7 wherein the period is daily.

1                   9.     The method of claim 1 wherein the status is shipping status and the  
2 set status is ship date of the unit.

1                   10.    The method of claim 1 wherein the status is open or closed and the  
2 set status indicates closed when the unit of the item has been shipped and cost  
3 information has been provided.

1           11. A computer system for tracking orders for multiple units of items,  
2 each order having one or more items, each item having an associated quantity of units  
3 of that item, comprising:

4           means for updating a unit order database to include a record for each unit  
5 of each item of each order of an order database, the order database having orders that  
6 have been booked, the order database being updated to reflect current orders; and

7           means for setting a status in a record of the unit order database for a unit  
8 of the item of the order to reflect a changed status when the status of a unit of an item  
9 of an order changes

10           so that the status of each unit of each item of an order can be tracked  
11 separately.

1           12. The computer system of claim 11 wherein the means for updating  
2 of the unit order database includes means for adding a record for each unit of each item  
3 for each new order of the order database.

1           13. The computer system of claim 12 including means for identifying  
2 that an order in the order database is new when the unit order database contains no  
3 records corresponding to that order.

1           14. The computer system of claim 11 wherein the means for updating  
2 of the unit order database includes when the quantity of units of an item of an existing  
3 order has changed, adding a record for increased unit of the item and setting a record to  
4 canceled for each decreased unit of the item.

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1           15. The computer system of claim 14 including identifying that the  
2 quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed by comparing the quantity  
3 of units of the item indicated in the order database to a quantity of units of the item  
4 indicated by the records of that order in the unit order database.

1           16. The computer system of claim 11 wherein the means for updating  
2 of the unit order database includes adding a record for each unit of each item of each  
3 uncanceled order of the order database.

1           17. The computer system of claim 11 wherein the updating of the unit  
2 order database occurs on a periodic basis.

1           18. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the period is daily.

1           19. The computer system of claim 11 wherein the status is shipping  
2 status and the set status is ship date of the unit.

1           20. The computer system of claim 11 wherein the order database is a  
2 database of the ORACLE Order Entry system.

1           21. The computer system of claim 11 wherein the status is open or  
2 closed and the set status indicates closed when the unit of the item has been shipped  
3 and cost information has been provided.

1           22. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for  
2 controlling a computer system to track orders for multiple units of items, each order

3 having one or more items, each item having an associated quantity of units of that item,  
4 the orders being stored in an order database that is updated to reflect current orders, by  
5 a method comprising:

6 updating a unit order database to include a record for each unit of each  
7 item of each order of the order database; and

8 when status of a unit of an item of an order changes, setting a status in a  
9 record of the unit order database for a unit of the item of the order to reflect the  
10 changed status

11 so that the status of each unit of each item of an order can be tracked  
12 separately.

1 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the updating  
2 of the unit order database includes adding a record for each unit of each item for each  
3 new order of the order database.

1 24. The computer-readable medium of claim 23 including identifying  
2 that an order in the order database is new when the unit order database contains no  
3 records corresponding to that order.

1 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the updating  
2 of the unit order database includes when the quantity of units of an item of an existing  
3 order has changed, adding a record for increased unit of the item and setting a record to  
4 canceled for each decreased unit of the item.

1 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25 including identifying  
2 that the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has changed by comparing the

3 quantity of units of the item indicated in the order database to a quantity of units of the  
4 item indicated by the records of that order in the unit order database.

1 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the updating  
2 of the unit order database includes adding a record for each unit of each item of each  
3 uncanceled order of the order database.

1 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the updating  
2 of the unit order database occurs on a periodic basis.

1 29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the period is  
2 daily.

1 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the status is  
2 shipping status and the set status is ship date of the unit.

1 31. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the status is  
2 open or closed and the set status indicates closed when the unit of the item has been  
3 shipped and cost information has been provided.

1 32. A method in a computer system for tracking orders for multiple  
2 units of items at an individual unit level when an order entry system supports tracking  
3 only at the order or item level, the method comprising:

4 periodically identifying changes to orders of an order database of the  
5 order entry system; and

6 updating a unit order database to reflect the identified changes to the  
7 orders of the order database, the unit order database having a record for each unit of

8 each item of each unit so that the status of each unit of each item of an order can be  
9 tracked separately.

1 33. The method of claim 32 wherein the updating of the unit order  
2 database includes adding a record for each unit of each item for each new order of the  
3 order database.

1 34. The method of claim 33 including identifying that an order in the  
2 order database is new when the unit order database contains no records corresponding  
3 to that order.

1 35. The method of claim 32 wherein the updating of the unit order  
2 database includes when the quantity of units of an item of an existing order has  
3 changed, adding a record for increased unit of the item and setting a record to canceled  
4 for each decreased unit of the item.

FOOTNOTES